

RICHARD HUDSON
8TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE SECRETARY
DEPUTY WHIP
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

325 MCGILL AVE., STE. 500
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28027
(704) 786-1612

225 GREEN STREET, STE. 202
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28301
(910) 997-2070

2112 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3715

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Department of State
Harry S Truman Building
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As you are aware, the situation in Afghanistan is increasingly dire for thousands of American citizens, as well as our Afghan allies. As Fort Bragg's Congressman, I represent numerous active-duty troops and their families, as well as a large population of veterans. I have heard from many of them about the need to assist U.S. citizens, as well as Afghan partners still on the ground who have been critical to our Armed Forces over the past two decades. I have worked for months to try and assist these people, but am disappointed in the lack of preparation and action to now evacuate them in the face of extreme danger.

For example, on Monday, Aug. 16, the State Department sent a letter to one Special Immigrant Visa applicant for whom my office initiated an inquiry. The letter instructed the applicant and their family to present the letter at an immigrant visa interview at the defunct U.S. Embassy in Kabul – on Sept. 28, 2021.

Additionally, today it has been brought to my attention that a notice emailed from the State Department intended to instruct American citizens to make their way to Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul was also sent to Afghan nationals, SIV applicants, and allies who worked with our military who have applied for evacuation. The email included an official Department of State Access Pass. This confusion has led to Afghan citizens making the dangerous journey through Taliban checkpoints to the airport, only to be turned away. These allies have left their hiding places believing that they are heading to safety and evacuation with official State Department documents and are now exposed to the Taliban and put in greater jeopardy. One individual my office has assisted, for example, was beaten by a baton outside of the airport.

These missteps from the State Department are creating additional confusion in an already chaotic and tenuous situation. The lives of our fellow citizens and allies whom we have a commitment to protect are at stake. I am requesting that you and the State Department provide immediate assistance and a clear plan to now secure their safety. I realize the situation is fluid and thousands of requests are flooding into the Department. However, please know I stand ready to help in any way possible and to communicate information to those stranded on the ground.

Thank you,



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress